

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A wale and retaining system for use in bracing a retaining wall, ~~said wale~~ the system comprising:

a wale of a unitary construction and comprising pultruded composite material, the wale further comprising,

a back wall having a first opening therethrough, [[:]]

a front wall having a channel formed therein and extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale, the front wall having a second opening therethrough, [[: and]]

a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall, said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall, an upper reinforcing wall, a lower reinforcing wall, and a bottom wall, and wherein a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall;

a tieback rod extending through the first opening, a one of the plurality of chambers, and the second opening;

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel;

and wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to said retaining wall by ~~[[a]]~~ the tieback rod passing through said wale and ~~[[a]]~~ the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

2. - 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The system wale of claim 4 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.

6. (Currently Amended) A retaining wall wale and retaining system, comprising:
a wale of a unitary construction and comprising pultruded composite material, the wale further comprising,

a back wall,[[;]]

a front wall having a top portion and a bottom portion interconnected by a C-shaped channel portion extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale, [[;]]

a top wall connecting said back wall to said top portion, [[;]] and

a bottom wall connecting said back wall to said bottom portion to form a chamber between said back wall and said front wall, and [[;]]

an upper reinforcing wall and a lower reinforcing wall each connecting said back wall to at least one of said top portion, said C-shaped channel portion, and said bottom portion such that a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall;

a tieback rod extending through the front wall, a one of the plurality of chambers, and the back wall;

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel; and

and wherein said channel portion has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by ~~[[a]]~~ the tieback rod passing through the said wale and ~~[[a]]~~ the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel portion.

7. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A wale and retaining system for use in bracing a retaining wall, said ~~wale~~ system comprising:

a wale of a unitary construction, the wale further comprising,

a back wall having a first opening therein and operable for receiving a tieback rod therethrough, ~~[[;]]~~

a front wall having a channel formed therein extending from a first end of the wale to a second end of the wale and having a second opening therein and operable for receiving the tieback rod therethrough, and ~~[[;]]~~

a plurality of connecting walls connecting said back and front walls to form at least one chamber between said back wall and said front wall; ~~and wherein said wale is of a unitary construction~~

a tieback rod extending through the first opening, the at least one chamber, and the second opening; and

a fastener coupled to said tieback rod and disposed within the channel.

29. (Currently Amended) The wale of Claim 28 wherein said channel has a depth sufficient such that when said wale is secured to a retaining wall by ~~[[a]]~~the tieback rod and ~~[[a]]~~ the fastener, said tieback rod and said fastener do not protrude from the channel.

30. (Currently Amended) The system ~~wale~~ of claim 28 wherein said plurality of connecting walls includes a top wall, an upper reinforcing wall, a lower reinforcing wall, and a bottom wall, and wherein a plurality of chambers are formed between said back wall and said front wall.

31. (Currently Amended) The system ~~wale~~ of claim 28 wherein said wale further comprises a pultruded composite material.

32. (Currently Amended) The system ~~wale~~ of claim 31 wherein said composite material is fiberglass reinforced plastic resin impregnated composite.

33. - 34. (Canceled).